

Portsmouth New Hampshire Sept: 2<sup>d</sup>  
1782.

- 52/13

Your kind letter my dear Morris of the 13<sup>th</sup>  
Ult. and the public one of the same date are  
as welcome favors and as necessary to me  
as fresh Air and the saving hand of friend-  
ship to a drowning Man. — I know your  
ability and am convinced your friendship  
for our Country will manifest itself so  
effectually that we may avail of the loss of  
the Magnifique at B<sup>oston</sup> — I know it  
has been proposed by some wise Heads to offer  
the America as a present to replace that  
ship. Are we in a condition to make  
presents? If we were I should be against  
offering to give a friend an empty Eggshell. —

Yours truly

Gouverneur Morris Esq. Assistant Minister of Finance U.S.

#### Letter from John Paul Jones to Gouverneur Morris

The American Navy owes much of its heritage for heroism and victorious skill to the great John Paul Jones. This original letter to Gouverneur Morris is Jones' reply of September 2, 1782, to information that Congress had presented his ship "America" to the French Government in place of the foundered "Magnifique." With magnanimity he wrote, "As honorable peace is and always was my first wish, I can take no delight in the effusion of human blood, but if this war should continue, I wish to have the most active part in it."

(CONTINUED OPPOSITE SIDE)

Lent to The Freedom Train by the U. S. Naval Academy Museum